

POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

2nd

O F

ANCIENT and ENGLISH HISTORY;

WITH

HISTORICAL and EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Non in notitiâ vel rerum, vel TEMPORUM, satis
operæ infumitur.

Tacit. *Dial. de Orator.* xxix.

READING:

Printed by SMART and COWSLADE.

LONDON:

Sold by ELMSLEY, PRIDDEN, RICHARDSON, ROBINSON,
and WILLIAMS.

M. DC. XC. IV.

E R R A T A:

Page 36, line 13, for *Ghent*, read *Gaunt*.

Page 43, line 17, for *Henry*, read *Edward*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE necessity of an early acquaintance with History has been always acknowledged. It is as generally confessed that, without a proportionate knowledge of Geography and Chronology, History cannot make a lasting impression on the memory. The former is acquired with pleasure and remembered with facility. The satisfaction of beholding the face of the earth, of tracing the march of an army, the progress of an empire, or even the tour of a traveller, insensibly leads the inquisitive minds of youth to a competent knowledge of Geography. Less attractive is the study of Chronology. A list of dates is far from leaving that agreeable impression on the memory, which is the result of the attentive survey of a map or a chart. What is indistinctly remembered, ceases to engage delight; and what is no longer interesting, is soon totally forgotten.

Those,

Those, who rank History among the principal branches of a classical education, have long been sensible of this difficulty. Various plans have been proposed, and systems adopted, in order to clear the path of Chronology of its intricacies and impediments. Of these, Grey's *Memoria Technica* has received the greatest share of approbation. But it has of late fallen into disuse. The harshness of its measures, and the difficulty of committing to memory such lines as :

Croth Deletok Abaneb Exafna Tembybe Cyruts,

were not likely to conciliate the attention of an age, which has been employed in inventing methods to simplify the elements of science, and to facilitate the acquisition of learning.

Having succeeded in the attempt to smoothe the difficulties of Latin Grammar, the writer of these sheets turned his attention to Chronology. He conceived that, if the knowledge of dates, which is happily connected with that of facts, could be reduced to a poetical form, to a series of English verses, which might be easily learnt on account of their simplicity, and remembered without disgust, a benefit of some importance would be conferred on the rising age. He found his path fortunately traced, and his labor considerably diminished, by two poems, written with a similar design. The first was, a series of *Chronological Verses* of
Ancient

Ancient History, written by Mr. Hooke, the Roman Historian, and revised by the late Bishop of London. The second was, a *Poetical Chronology of the Kings of England*, preserved in that valuable repository, the Gentleman's Magazine.

In the former, much alteration and addition was necessary. The author had followed the plan of Grey, and adopted the technical form of letters referred to figures. It was written in this manner :

*In wat'ry Asus all the world lay drown'd,
And babbling Boiloi did the tongues confound.*

It will scarcely be supposed that what was revised by the good and venerable Lowth was necessary to be softened, because some lines were, according to the modern sense, thought to be rather too *democratical*. Yet such is the effect of the French Revolution, that, what was formerly considered as the generous glow of the indignant mind at the sight of despotic oppression, is now marked with the appellation of *Jacobinism*.

But the alterations, which were made in the former in compliance with the spirit of the times, were deemed absolutely necessary in the latter from a sense of moral and political propriety. It is the duty of a teacher to instil into the minds of youth the purest constitutional principles. He must have the care to reconcile

concile the lofty sentiments of Republican liberty, which occur in the perusal of the Greek and Latin writers, with a loyal submission to that form of Monarchy, which the experience of ages has proved to be the best calculated to insure private security, and to promote public happiness, in this country. In this view, it was found that the author of the *Poetical Chronology* had cast a shade of unmerited obloquy over the character of some English Princes. Much correction was therefore required. The reign of Charles the First, particularly, was marked with such cruel invective, as could proceed only from the pen of a leveller. To rescue from such illiberal aspersions the character of an unfortunate Monarch,—who, though guilty, in the beginning of his reign, of some arbitrary measures through the effect of his education, was sentenced to a fate equalled in injustice only by an atrocious deed, for which the breast of sensibility has scarcely ceased to sigh,—it became an indispensable duty to paint him and his murderer, Cromwell, in their true colors. For the lines from thence to the present reign inclusive,—with the exception of the reign of James the Second,—the writer of these sheets is responsible. The imperfections of the Introduction, and of the Notes on the whole, are also to be attributed to him.

This

This publication is chiefly intended for the use of the school, over which he presides. But if, as he is led by the experienced utility of the plan to expect, any other instructor of youth should introduce it to his pupils, he will be highly gratified by any corrections or remarks, which may make a future edition less unworthy of the public approbation.

R. V.

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INTRODUCTION.

CHRONOLOGY is the art of measuring time, and of fixing dates.

In the early periods of the world, time was measured only by the seasons, by the revolutions of the sun and moon : many ages elapsed before the mode of computation by dating events was generally adopted. Even in Herodotus and Thucydides, we find no regular dates for the events recorded in their histories. No attempt was made to establish a fixed æra, until the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus, who attempted it by comparing and correcting the dates of the Olympiads, the Kings of Sparta, and the succession of the priestesses of Juno at Argos.

The Chronology of the early parts of ancient history is full of uncertainty. Even after the adoption of dates, we
find

find the early historians very inaccurate in their computations. Ancient Chronology is an immense perspective, bounded by impenetrable clouds, which are thinly chequered with a few glimmerings of doubtful light. In the fabulous and heroic ages, precision is not expected. But lamentable is the uncertainty respecting some of the most important parts of history, such as the number of years elapsed since the Creation, the origin of the Chinese Empire, the Egyptian dynasties, the reign of Sesostris, the rise and fall of the Assyrian empire, the chronology of the Kings of Babylon, of the Median monarchs, and even of the successors of Alexander the Great. Moreri has collected in his dictionary seventy different opinions on the chronology from the beginning of the world to the birth of Christ.

The most successful laborers in clearing this intricate and rugged path are: Julius Africanus, Eusebius, Syncellus, John of Antioch, Scaliger, Petavius, Usher, Marsham, Vossius, Newton, Lenglet, Blair and Playfair. The foundations, on which they have built their systems, have been:

1. Astronomical observations, particularly of eclipses, which were carefully noted and recorded by the ancients, as prognostics of the death of princes, and the fall of empires.

2. The testimony of credible authors, and consistent history.

3. Epochs, or fixed, uncontroverted points in history; such as the Greek *Olympiads*, the foundation of *Rome*, the æra of *Nabonassar*, the birth of CHRIST, the Arabian *Hegira*, &c.

4. Medals,

4. Medals, monuments, and inscriptions, which have faithfully transmitted the dates of many important events.

T I M E

May be considered as divided into *Days* and *Hours*, and into *Weeks*, *Months* and *Years*.

D A Y S.

The word *Day*, in its strict sense, signifies only that portion of time, during which any particular part of the earth receives the light of the sun: called an *artificial* day. In its most comprehensive sense it includes the night also, and is called by chronologers a *civil* day, by astronomers a *natural* day.

The *civil*, or *natural* day is the space of time, in which the sun appears to make a revolution round the earth; or, to speak with greater astronomical precision, the space of time, in which the earth makes one revolution round its own axis.

Various have been the modes, in different nations, of computing the beginning of the day. The Syrians, Babylonians, Persians and Indians began their day at the rising of the sun. The civil day of the Athenians, Arabs, and ancient Gauls began at sunset: a mode followed by the Jews in calculating their sacred day. The ancient Italians computed the day from midnight, a computation in common use among us. The Mahometans calculate from one twilight to another. The Italians begin the first hour at sunset. The astronomical

day begins at noon, because that instant of time can be ascertained with the greatest precision.

DIVISIONS OF THE DAY.

The most obvious division was that of morning and evening. A second division was afterwards introduced: noon and midnight.

The Jews and Romans adopted a subdivision, into four parts of the day, and four vigils or watches of the night. The *first* began at sunrise, or six in the morning; the *second* at nine; the *third* at noon; and the *fourth* at three in the afternoon. The *first* watch of the night began at six in the evening; the *second* at nine; the *third* at midnight; and the *fourth* at three in the morning. Another division in use, not only among the Jews and Romans, but also among the Greeks, reckoned the first quarter from sunset to midnight; the second from midnight to sunrise; the third, or morning watch, from sunrise to noon; and the fourth from noon to sunset.

Among the Romans, the parts of the civil day were: *Media nox*, midnight; *Media noctis inclinatio*, the turn of the night; *Gallicinium*, cock-crowing; *Centicinium*, the time when the cocks cease to crow, the calm of the night; *Diluculum*, the dawn; *Mane*, the morning, which lasted till noon; *Meridies*, noon or mid-day; *Meridiei inclinatio*, *tempus pomeridianum*, afternoon; *Solis occasus*, sunset; *Vesper*, the evening; *Crepusculum*, the twilight; *Prima fax*, *primæ tenebræ*,

INTRODUCTION.

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Nebra, the beginning of darkness; *Concubium*, bed-time; *Nox intempestiva*, which lasted till midnight.

HOURS.

The division of days into hours was received by the Greeks from the Babylonians. An hour is the 24th part of a natural or astronomical day; or that portion of time, in which the sun appears to move fifteen degrees from the horizon.

The Greeks and Romans divided the day and the night into twelve hours each; hence an hour of the day was longer, and an hour of the night shorter, in summer than in winter. They were only equal at the equinoxes.

The hours of the day were reckoned from sunrise. Thus, at the equinoxes the *first* hour answers to our seven o'clock, the *second* to eight, the *third* to nine, the *fourth* to ten, the *fifth* to eleven, the *sixth* to twelve, the *seventh* to one in the afternoon, &c.

The methods of indicating the hours have been various. In Egypt the priests proclaimed the hours like our watchmen. Anaximander of Miletus introduced a sun-dial in Greece, in the time of Cyrus; and Papirius Cursor placed one in the capitol of Rome, A. C. 306. As this could only be used by the rays of the sun, a water-clock, or hour glass made with water, called *Clepsydra*, was invented by the Egyptians, and adopted in Rome by Scipio Nasica.

It is not known at what time clocks were invented. The first mentioned in history was in the possession of Pepin, King of France, in the eighth century. Huygens invented the pendulum.

pendulum. The most accurate division of time at sea has been attained by the late Mr. Harrison's time-piece.

An hour is divided into sixty equal parts, called *minutes*, a minute into sixty *seconds*, and a second into sixty *thirds*.

W E E K S.

It is probable that this measure of time took place from the creation of the world. The Greeks, however, were unacquainted with this division. They divided the month of thirty days into three decades: the first of the *beginning*, the second of the *middle*, and the third of the *end*, of the month. Thus the fifth day of the month was called the fifth day of the *first* decade; the fifteenth was called the fifth day of the *second* decade; and the twenty-fifth was the fifth of the *third* decade.

The Romans gave to each of the seven days the name of one of the heavenly bodies: thus *Dies Solis*, the day of the Sun; *Lunæ*, of the moon; *Martis*, of Mars; *Mercurii*, of Mercury; *Jovis*, of Jupiter; *Veneris*, of Venus; and *Saturni*, of Saturn.

The English language has derived the names of the days from the same source, except Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, which take the names of the Saxon and Danish deities, *Wodin*, *Thor* and *Freya*.

M O N T H S.

This division appears to have been used before the Flood. As it is naturally framed by the revolution of the moon, the
months

months of all nations were originally lunar. In a more enlightened period the revolutions of the moon were compared with those of the sun, and the limits of the months, as the component parts of a year, were fixed with greater precision.

The Romans divided the month into Calends, Nones and Ides. The Calends were the first day of the month. The Nones were the seventh, and the Ides the fifteenth, of *March, May, July* and *October*. In the other months the Nones fell on the fifth, and the Ides on the thirteenth. The following lines may assist the memory :

*Sex Maius Nonas, October, Julius et Mars ;
Quatuor at reliqui : dabit Idus quilibet octo.*

The days, according to this form, were counted backwards : thus the 18th of *October* is called the 15th day before the Calends of November, &c. *

Y E A R S.

The year was commonly divided into twelve months ; and a month generally contained 30 days.

The ancient Hebrew months consisted of 30 days each, except the last, which contained 35. Thus the year contained 365 days : an intercalary month at the end of 120 years supplied the difference.

* For a table of the Roman Calendar, see Adam's *Roman Antiquities*, Wilson's *Archæological Dictionary*, or the *Eton Historia Antiqua*.

The Athenian months consisted of 30 and 29 days alternately, according to the regulation of Solon. They began on the first new moon after the summer solstice, in the following order :

Hecatombaeon	- -	30	Poseideon	- - -	30
Metageitnion	- -	29	Gamelion	- - -	29
Boedromion	- - -	30	Elaphebolion	- -	30
Mæmacterion	- -	29	Munychion	- - -	29
Pyanepсион	- - -	30	Thargelion	- - -	30
Antheſterion	- - -	29	Scirrophorion	- -	29

This calculation produced a year of 354 days ; or, as each lunation, or lunar month, consists of 29 days, 12 hours, 45 minutes, 354 days and a little more than a third of a day. A solar month contains 30 days, 10 hours, 29 minutes. To reconcile the difference between the solar and the lunar year, Meton added seven *embolismic*, or *intercalary* months, during a *cycle*, or revolution, of 19 years.

The Roman months, in the time of Romulus, were thus divided and numbered :

Martius	- - -	31	Sextilis	- - -	30
Aprilis	- - -	30	September	- - -	30
Maius	- - -	31	October	- - -	31
Junius	- - -	30	November	- - -	30
Quintilis	- - -	31	December	- - -	30

Sensible of the great deficiency of this computation, Numa Pompilius added January and February, and made a year of 355 days. Julius Cæsar finding the year established by Numa ten days shorter than the solar year, supplied the difference,

ference, regulated the months according to their present measure, and added an intercalary day every fourth year to the month of February, reckoning twice the 24th of that month, or the 6th of the Calends of March. Hence the fourth year was called bissextile.

In honor of Julius Cæsar, Quintilis was called *Julius*; for a similar reason, Sextilis received the name of *Augustus*.

Still this computation was not perfectly accurate. As the true solar year contains only 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes, in the course of 131 years there was a difference of one day. Pope Gregory reformed the calendar in 1582, by cutting off 10 days, and calling the 4th of October the 15th. This alteration of the style was gradually adopted in other countries, but not received in England before the year 1752. In Russia, in some of the Swiss Cantons, and in the East, the old style is still preserved.

The beginning of the year has by no means been the same among different nations. The Chaldeans, the Egyptians, and the Jews in civil affairs, began the year at the autumnal equinox. The ecclesiastical year of the Jews, the year of the Persians, of the Romans under Romulus, began in the spring: a mode still followed by many of the Italian states. Both the equinoxes, and the summer solstice, were each the date of some of the Grecian states. The Roman year from the time of Numa commenced on the calends of January. The Arabs and the Turks compute from the 16th of July. The Christian clergy formerly began the year on the 25th of March; a method observed in Britain, particularly

larly in civil affairs, until the alteration of the style in 1752, when our year commenced on the first of January. Before that time it was usual to write the double date in the form of a fraction, from the 1st of January to the 25th of March : thus February 20th, 174 $\frac{2}{3}$, for 1743 of the present style.

C Y C L E S .

A Cycle is a perpetual circulation, and recurrence of the same parts of time. The most remarkable are : the *Cycle of the Moon*, the *Cycle of the Sun*, the *Indiction*, and the *Julian Period*.

CYCLE OF THE MOON.

The *Cycle of the Moon*, commonly called the *Golden Number*, is a revolution of nineteen years, during which the same positions and appearances of the the moon regularly return within an hour and a half of the same time, in which they took place nineteen years before.

This cycle was observed in Greece by Meton, about 430 years before Christ, and the discovery was so much admired, that the computation was engraved in letters of gold ; hence it was called the *Golden Number*.

To find the Cycle of the Moon, or the Golden Number, add 1 to the given year of Christ, and divide the sum by 19 : the quotient will be the number of lunar cycles elapsed since the Christian æra, and the remainder the golden number for the given year. If nothing remains, the cycle is 19. Thus the Golden Number for 1794 is 9, and the number of lunar cycles since the birth of Christ is 94.

Number

INTRODUCTION.

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Number 1 is added, because in the first year of Christ, the Golden Number was 2.

CYCLE OF THE SUN.

The *Cycle of the Sun* is a revolution of 28 years, which brings the same days of the week to the same days of the month. In this period the place of the sun returns to the same signs and degrees of the ecliptic on the same months and days.

To find the solar cycle of a given year, add 9 to the given number, and divide the sum by 28; the quotient will be the number of solar cycles since the birth of Christ, and the remainder is the cycle for the given year. If nothing remains, the cycle is 28. Thus the solar cycle for 1794 is 11, and the number of solar cycles since the Christian æra 64.

Number 9 is added, because our Saviour was born in the 10th year of this cycle, 9 years of which were consequently past.

INDICTION.

The *Indiction* is a revolution of 15 years, used by the Romans, to fix the time of some public payments. It was established A. D. 312.

To find the Indiction, add 3 to the given year, because Christ was born in the year answering to the 4th of this cycle, and divide the sum by 15: the remainder will be the year of the Indiction. Thus the year 1794 is the 12th.

JULIAN PERIOD.

If the cycles of the Sun, of the Moon, and of Indictions,

are

are multiplied by one another, the product will be 7980, called the *Julian Period*.

The vulgar æra of the birth of Christ, sometimes called the Dionysian, from Dionysius Exiguus, who fixed it in the year 527, was about the end of the year 4713 of the Julian Period. According to this calculation, the first year of his age was the 4714th of that period. If therefore to the year of Christ we add 4713, the sum will be the year of the Julian Period. Thus 1794 is the 6507th year.

DOMINICAL LETTER.

The first seven letters of the Alphabet are placed in the common calendars to show on what days of the week the days of the month fall during the year. That letter, which is placed against *Sunday*, is printed in capitals, and called the *Dominical letter*. As a common Julian year consists of 365 days, if this number be divided by 7, the number of days in a week, there will remain one day. Were there no remainder, the year would constantly begin on the same day of the week. But since 1 remains, the next year must begin on the next day of the week. Hence, when January begins on Sunday, *A* is the *Sunday*, or *Dominical* letter for that year. As the next year begins on *Monday*, and the Sunday will fall on the seventh day, marked with the letter *G*, that letter will be the Dominical letter during the year. According to this series, the letters would be successively *G, F, E, D, C, B, A*, did not the leap year interrupt the order. But as the interruption is regular, the Dominical letters are easily ascertained.

POETICAL

POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

O F

ANCIENT HISTORY.

Anno
Mundi. **O**'ER sixteen cent'ries the revolving fun,
1656 And summers fifty-six, his course had run,
When sinful man drew heav'n's just vengeance down,
In one wide Deluge the whole world to drown.

1757 In sev'nteenth fifty-sev'n, see Babel rise
In tow'ring pride, to emulate the skies !
When God, t' enlarge earth's habitable bounds,
Scatters the people, and their tongues confounds.

* The dispersion of mankind, and the increase of population, were the natural consequence of the confusion of tongues, and doubtless the object of the divine interposition.

Seventeen

A. M.

1771

Seventeen sev'nty-one fierce Nimrod saw ;
 Then one man's pleasure gave the public law :
 Rousing no more the lion from his den,
 The hero's task is now the chace of men.
 'Tis virtue, glory, to enslave and kill,
 And duty to obey a tyrant's will.
 The mighty hunter, to a monarch grown,
 In rising Babylon exalts his throne.
 Now too, proud Nineveh first lifts her head,
 And states and cities in the east are spread :
 Egyptian Tanis, Memphis, Thebes, and Thin ; *
 Here th' everlasting pyramids begin. †
 From earlier date presumptuous China brings
 The long succession of her mighty kings. ‡

Two

* The four dynasties, or states, into which Egypt was divided after the reign of Mesraim, or Menes, the first king of that country.

† Many writers are of opinion that the pyramids were built before the flood. The most probable conjecture is, that they were erected for monuments to gratify the pride, or satisfy the superstition, of the Egyptian monarchs. M. Volney derives the word *pyramid* from *bour-a-mit*, a cave of the dead. Of the largest, the base is 2640 feet in circumference, each side 660, and the perpendicular height about 300. How vain is the attempt to force the natural course of human events ! These stupendous monuments, erected to perpetuate the memory of the monarchs, have not been able to rescue their names from oblivion.

‡ The Chinese date the reign of their first emperor Fo-hi, from the
 year

A. M.

2083 Two thousand eighty-three, the promis'd land
The patriarch seeks, led by Jehovah's hand.

2162 Twenty-one sixty-two, Theffalian Jove *
His father Saturn from his kingdom drove,
And on Olympus fixt his court on high ;
Hence superstition rais'd him to the sky.

2180 Twenty-one eighty, so the fable sings,
Hails Inachus the first of Grecian kings. †

year of the world 1052. A late writer, M. de Guignes, has with great ingenuity endeavoured to prove that an Egyptian colony settled in China about the year of the world 2882. He observes, among many other national coincidences between the Egyptians and the Chinese, that the two first dynasties of the annals of China are those of the kings of Thebes and Upper Egypt.

* Jupiter is said to have begun his reign at the age of 62, in Theffaly, where he reigned 60 years. He vanquished the Titans, the sons of his grandfather Ouranos, who claimed his kingdom, and forced them to fly from Greece. His brother Pluto obtained the command of the west, and Neptune of the sea coast. Jupiter destroyed a band of robbers, who infested the country, and concealed themselves in the Theffalian and Macedonian forests; the greatest instance, in those times, of valor and heroism. His laws were remarked for their wisdom and strictness. As he kept his court on Mount Olympus in Theffaly, heaven has been distinguished by that name in classical poetry, since Jupiter obtained the chief place among the divinities of pagan mythology.

† Inachus, born in Cappadocia, was the son of Oceanus, brother of Saturn; consequently nearly related to Jupiter. He was the first king of Argos.

4 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY
A. M.

2275 Twenty-two hundred sev'nty-five, behold
Joseph to Egypt by his brothers sold.
Tho' long the storms of adverse fortune low'r,
Yet, to protect the good, heav'n's gracious pow'r
Can 'mid the thorns of woe make roses bloom,
And to a palace change a dungeon's gloom. *

2448 Cecrops, in twenty-four and forty-eight, *
Form'd from thirteen small tribes † th' Athenian state.
He first to Greece the laws of Egypt brought,
To worship Egypt's Gods the Greeks were taught :
What time Deucalion fled th' usurping main ;
No gen'ral deluge, as the poets feign ;
It rag'd, to narrow Thessaly confin'd, ‡
Nor dar'd again the ruin of mankind.
Then too Phœnician Cadmus crost the main : §
Thebes was the seat of his Bœotian reign.

2513 Israel, in twenty-five thirteen, were led
From Egypt's land, and in the desert fed.

* This event is placed by the Parian Chronicle in the year of the world 2422.

† Univ. Hist. Ch. xviii, sect. 4.

‡ The course of the river Peneus being stopped by an earthquake between Ossa and Olympus, an inundation, increased by an uncommon fall of rain, covered the plains of Thessaly. Deucalion, and many of his subjects, saved themselves on Mount Parnassus.

§ This event is fixed by the Parian Chronicle in the year 2485.

A. M.

Spite of the miracles of Moses' rod,
 The stiff-neck'd people made a calf their God.
 Chastis'd, they murmur'd still, their chief revil'd,
 And forty years they wander'd in the wild.
 Mean time, a colony from Egypt sails,
 And o'er the sons of Inachus prevails;
 His race no more the Argive sceptre sways,
 Argos Egyptian Danaus obeys.

Now mighty Joshua leads the Hebrew band
 To wars, to triumphs, and the promis'd land.
 Six years their arms are by Jehovah blest:
 2559 In twenty-five and fifty-nine they rest.
 Oft the ungrateful race their God provoke,
 As often bend beneath a foreign yoke;
 They mourn, repent, and to their God return,
 No longer can Jehovah's anger burn.
 He raises Judges to assert their cause,
 Conduct their battles, and dispense their laws.
 Brave Othniel frees them from proud Chusan's * reign,
 2647 Eglon's † in twenty-six by Ehud slain,
 And forty-sev'n.— When Pelops rul'd in peace,
 And gave a Phrygian name to southern Greece; ‡

* King of Mesopotamia.

† King of the Moabites.

‡ Peloponnesus.

6 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. M.

- When Deb'rah guided Barak's conqu'ring sword,
The son of Bel * became Assyria's Lord.
- 2737 In twenty-sev'n and thirty-sev'n he shone,
And fix'd at Nineveh his awful throne.
Not long ere Tyre † rose mistress of the sea,
Rich by her commerce, while by valor free ;
- 2768 And Gideon's son, ‡ to fix his impious reign,
His brethren slew ; himself by woman slain.
The famous combats of Amphitryon's son ; §
All the Athenian cantons join'd in one
By Theseus ; the great demigods of Greece ; ||
The mighty heroes of the golden fleece ; || ||

Orpheus,

* Ninus. According to Ctesias, and Diodorus Siculus, the Assyrian empire was founded in the year of the world 1830. But their accounts are considered as fabulous. If we follow the dates of Herodotus, we shall fix this event in the year 2774.

† Josephus informs us that the new city of Tyre was built 240 years before the temple of Solomon.

‡ Abimelech.

§ Hercules, son of Jupiter, and Alcmena, wife of Amphitryon, king of Thebes.

|| Perseus, Theseus, Œdipus, Castor and Pollux, &c.

|| | Jason and the Argonauts. M. Rabaut de St. Etienne, in his Letters to M. Bailly on the primitive History of Greece, ingeniously endeavours to explain the allegories of the heroic ages, and to prove that they were generally intended to represent the motions of the heavenly bodies.

OF ANCIENT HISTORY.

A. M.

Orpheus, Musæus, Linus, * eldest born
Of Phœbus' sons ; the wond'rous age adorn.

- 2816 While conqu'ring Jephtha Israel's cause defends ;
 And proud Semiramis her pow'r extends ;
- 2820 Lo ! twenty-eight and twenty weeps the fall
 Of ancient Ilion's long defended wall. †
- 2886 See twenty-eight and eighty-six declare
 The mighty wonders wrought by Samson's hair.
 Then Israel, dazzled with an empty show,
 Eager the joys of kingly pomp to know,
 Disdaining freedom, for a tyrant's nod
 Begs to exchange the sceptre of her God.
-

bodies. Thus in the history of Jason, which has formed so fruitful a subject for the display of poetical imagery, he represents the expedition of the Argonauts as exhibiting, under a beautiful allegory, the course of the constellation *Aries* through the sky. Jason is *Serpentarius*. Scarce has Argo, the ship, begun his ethereal voyage, when Hylas, *Aquarius*, disappears, and *Hercules* with him. The *Hydra*, the *River*, and all the crew of Jason, claim their share in this astronomical voyage. It may perhaps be a subject of discussion, whether the Argonauts received their existence and their names from the constellations, which they thus represent, or whether the latter were distinguished by the names of the characters in the History of Jason ; but the whole work deserves the attention of the historian and the mythologist.

* Ancient Greek poets and musicians.

† The destruction of Troy is fixed by the Parian Chronicle,
A. M. 2795.

Yet

POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. M.

- Yet kings oft merit : Codrus, Athens' pride,
 2909 Now self-devoted, for his country died.
 A grateful meed to his unrivall'd fame,
 Th' Athenians hence suppress the Royal name.
 Jove they declare sole sov'reign of the realm,
 And place dependent Archons at the helm.
- 2949 While humbly great, the Royal shepherd * sings
 The only glory of the King of Kings.
- 2988 In twenty-nine and eighty-eight, his son
 Arose, the wise, the peaceful Solomon, †
 Whose pious hands the wond'rous temple rear'd,
- 2999 One thousand five years ere our Lord appear'd.
 or But lo ! he falls, wise, pious, just no more ;
 — For slaves to women must their Gods adore.
- Ante Yet great Jehovah, by remembrance won
 Christ. Of the good fire, almost forgives his son ;
- 1005 Not quite forgives ; for now his wide domain
 No more obeys his son Roboam's reign.
- 975 Nine hundred sev'nty-five, ten tribes were led.
 By Jeroboam, and from Judah fled.
 The rebel, to sustain a doubtful cause,
 Belying Moses' God, retains his laws.

* David.

† Solomon began to reign A. M. 2988. In the fourth year of his reign, he began the temple, and completed it in seven years, A. M. 2999, or 1005 years before Christ.

Go.

A. C.

Go, Israel, to thy calves for succour call,

930 Nine hundred thirty, build Samaria's wall. *

Yet Shalmaneser shall avenge thy crimes, †

And drag thee captive to far distant climes.

Th' Egyptian monarchs now are mighty grown;

All pow'r absorb'd in that of Thebes alone.

966 Nine hundred sixty-six, Sesostris view, ‡

Whom sceptred slaves in golden harness drew.

Now raptur'd Greece hears lofty Homer sing §
Achilles' wrath, of mighty woes the spring.

* Omri, king of Israel, bought the hill Someron, or Samaria, for two talents of silver, and built upon it the city of that name, which became the residence of the kings of Israel.

† Shalmaneser, or Salmanasar, the son of Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, levelled Samaria to the ground, 721 years A. C. and sent Hoshea, king of Israel, and all his subjects, into captivity, 254 years after the defection from Judah.

‡ The opinion of Sir Isaac Newton and Sir John Marsham is here followed, who maintain that Sesostris is the Sefac or Shishac of scripture. But the latter seems to have little claim to the heroic character, which the former has obtained. The ancient historians, followed by the generality of modern chronologers, place Sesostris about 1700 years before the Christian æra.

§ Various are the opinions of chronologers respecting the time, in which Homer and Hesiod flourished. The Parian Chronicle places the latter in the year 944, A. C. and the former in 907.

Fell

10 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. C.

Fell discord listens to the heav'nly lay,
And giddy factions hear their rage away.
While Hesiod's humbler muse instructs the swains
In arts of peace, and culture of the plains.

890 Eight hundred ninety *, from Phœnicia's land
Pygmalion's sister seeks the Libyan strand.

To injur'd Dido Carthage owes her date;
885 'Twas then Lycurgus fram'd the Spartan state.
The strongest walls for her defence he gave; †
He made her patient, temp'rate, firm and brave.

776 Sev'n hundred sev'nty-six th' Olympiad sees, ‡
At first ordain'd by godlike Hercules. §
Of true record the date by Varro fixt,
Till then all fable, or with fable mixt.

* Petav. *Ration. Tempor.* l. ii, c. 13.

† Trusting to the valor of the Spartans, Lycurgus ordered that Lacedæmon should not be walled, alleging that bravery intrenched was a species of cowardice.

‡ The Olympic games, consisting of coursing, wrestling, and other exercises, were celebrated every fourth year, and became so important, that their computation was used to regulate the chronology of the history of Greece. The Olympic year began with the new moon nearest to the summer Solstice.

§ Hercules originally established the Olympic games, 448 years before the Grecian æra of Olympiads, but they had been discontinued.

Sev'n

A. C.

753

Sev'n hundred fifty three * saw Rome arise :
 A vig'rous birth ; her king was brave and wise.
 While with the soft Sardanapalus fell
 The vast Assyrian realm and race of Bel.
 Three kingdoms from its ruins took their date ;
 Tiglath renew'd the fall'n Assyrian state. †

747

Fam'd Nabonassar reign'd in Babylon ; ‡

681

These Esar-Haddon join'd at length in one. §

The Medes, long ranging uncontroll'd and free,
 Grown worse than slaves in lawless liberty,

* The computation of Varro is followed here, fixing the foundation of Rome in the beginning of the fourth year of the sixth Olympiad. Fabius Pictor places it in the first year of the eighth ; or, according to the calculation of the learned Usher, 748 years before the Christian æra.

† Tiglath-Pileser reigned in the year 747, A. C. He is supposed to have been the son of Pul, who has been thought to be the Belus of profane history, and the founder of the Assyrian monarchy.

‡ The reign of Nabonassar forms an important æra in chronology. It was, according to Ptolemy, the beginning of the astronomical observations of the Chaldeans. Hence it fixes the date of what is commonly called Ptolemy's astronomical canon.

§ He succeeded Sennacherib in the kingdom of Assyria. Taking advantage of an interregnum in Babylon, he annexed that city to his empire. He conquered Syria, Egypt and Ethiopia, and reduced Israel and Judah. He was succeeded by Sardanapalus, the Nebuchadonozor of scripture.

By

12 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. C.

By just restraint true freedom to regain,
Embrace the needful yoke, and court the rein;
They choose a king : just Deioces began
The Median reign*, and founded Ecbatan.

603 Six hundred three saw sev'n fam'd sages rise ; †
Science they taught, and made their hearers wise. .
Truths more sublime, yet easier understood,
Confucius taught ; † he made his hearers good.

560 Five hundred sixty, the humane and brave,
Who reign'd to bless, and conquer'd but to save,
Cyrus united with the Median band
Persia's rough sons, not yet by sloth unmann'd.

* On the ruins of the Assyrian empire rose the Median monarchy. The Medes, having revolted from Sennacherib, became a prey to all the evils of anarchy; 'till a sense of the necessity of public order induced them, in the year 710, A. C. to place Deioces on the throne. This monarch, in the book of Judith, is called Arphaxad.

† Solon, the Athenian legislator; Thales, of Miletus; Chilo, of Sparta; Pittacus, of Mitylene; Bias, of Priene; Cleobulus, of Lindos; and Periander, king of Corinth. The last of these had no claim to that honorable title, but the merit of having patronized men of genius and virtue.

‡ Or Con-fut-see; the celebrated philosopher, who civilized the Chinese, and inculcated the principles of the purest morality. He was born 551 years before Christ.

Vainly

A. C.

Vainly secure in thy stupendous wall, *

538 See, Babylon, thy impious monarch's fall ! †

Envy the captive from thy chain releas'd,

Now slave thyself, who hadst enslav'd the east.

* The walls of Babylon were 87 feet in breadth, 350 feet high, and 60 miles in circumference.

The foundation and improvement of this wonder of the world are enveloped in obscurity. It is difficult to reconcile the accounts of sacred and profane history. The most probable opinion is, that Nimrod founded, and Belus enlarged it ; that Semiramis adorned it with beautiful buildings ; and that Nebuchadnezzar the Great raised it to its perfect state of astonishing magnificence.

† The reduction of Babylon by Cyrus fulfilled the prophecies, which Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel had been inspired to denounce against that imperious city. The hand of the Almighty was no less visible in the total demolition of Babylon, than on the wall, on which the sentence of destruction was engraved against the unfortunate monarch.

In tracing the great decrees of Providence in the secondary causes, which are used as the instruments of Almighty power, we may remark that the waters of the Euphrates, which had been diverted to open a passage to the troops of Cyrus, were suffered to overflow the whole country, and reduce it to a morass. The bricks, which formed the materials of the celebrated walls and palaces of Babylon, were made of clay, mixed with straw, and dried in the sun. Wanting the firmness of cohesion, their surface was liable to be continually diminished by the heavy rains, 'till at length, being suffered to decay, they were totally reduced to mud, and swept away by the violence of the torrents. So complete is the destruction of this wonderful city, and so literally were the prophecies fulfilled, that the opinions on its former situation are founded on the most vague and fanciful conjectures.

14 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. C.

The pious victor sets from bondage free
The sons of Judah ; such was heav'n's decree. *
Full sev'nty years † beneath the tyrant's nod
The rebel race had groan'd, and learn'd to fear their God.

510 Five hundred ten to Athens freedom brings ; ‡
509 With equal ardor Rome dethrones her kings. §
Proud Tarquin's cause Porfenna would maintain, ||
Hippias's great Darius || || ; both in vain.

'Twixt Greece and Persia endless hate ensues ;
480 Xerxes' vast host four hundred eighty views ;
The fire's defeat repeated by the son,
And Salamis surpassing Marathon. § §

The

* Isaiah, ch. xlv, 28.

† Jeremiah, ch. xxv, 11. Daniel, ch. ix, 2.

‡ The extinction of the reign of the family of Pisistratus by the Alcæonidæ. Statues were erected to Harmodius and Aristogiton, who had put to death Hipparchus, son of Pisistratus.

§ Tarquin was banished from Rome, after the violation of Lucretia by his son. To the King Consuls were substituted.

|| Porfenna, king of Etruria, undertook to replace Tarquin on the throne.

||| Hippias, tyrant of Athens, fled to the court of Darius, king of Persia.

§ § In 490, the forces of Darius, consisting of 110,000 men had been defeated by 11,000 Athenians and Platæans in the plains of Marathon, near Athens.

Xerxes,

A. C.

The victors mutual jealousy alarms ;
 Persia's aveng'd of Greece by Grecian arms. *

Thrice nine long years the rival cities fought :

404 Success four hundred four to Sparta brought ; †

When in fall'n Athens, who so long maintain'd

The public freedom, Thirty Tyrants reign'd.

The Spartans now proud Asia's fall design ;

Their ready arms the brave Ten Thousand join ; ‡

Xerxes, his son, invaded Greece with an army of 700,000 foot and 400,000 horse. His numbers of all denominations amounted, according to Herodotus, to about five millions. Over the flower of this prodigious army, the Grecians obtained a signal victory near the island of Salamis ; and Xerxes was obliged to make a precipitate retreat over the Hellespont into Asia. In the next year Mardonius, whom he had left in Greece with 300,000 men, was defeated by 120,000 Greeks at the battle of Plataea.

* The Peloponnesian war, in which the Athenians and the Lacedaemonians were the principal belligerent powers.

† Athens was taken by Lyfander, after a siege of six months. Thirty commissioners were sent from Sparta to keep the Athenians in subjection.

‡ Ten thousand Greeks, who went to the assistance of Cyrus the younger, when that Prince made war against his brother Artaxerxes Mnemon, king of Persia, in the year 401, A. C. After the death of Cyrus in the engagement near Babylon, the Grecian army, under the conduct of Xenophon, whose valor and prudence as a general are only equalled by the elegance of his style, retreated through Armenia and Paphlagonia. This expedition has been celebrated in history under the title of the Retreat of the Ten Thousand.

A. C.

Who, giv'n by fortune to their foes a prey,
Thro' foes, thro' floods, thro' desarts urg'd their way ;
Quell'd adverse force, evaded close deceit,
Greater than conqu'rors by a bold retreat.

400 Four hundred stains the chronologic page,
When the fell pow'r of democratic rage
Doom'd Socrates, the virtuous and the wise, *
Blind superstition's patient sacrifice.

396 Agefilas shook the Persian throne,
'Till call'd to Sparta to defend his own.

395 The Grecians leagu'd her growing pow'r oppose ;
Restor'd by Conon, Athens' walls arose.

390 Three hundred ninety rais'd the Roman wall,
When brave Camillus drove the victor Gaul.
Henceforth the Roman story truth may boast,
Doubtful before : her annals now were lost. †

363 Three hundred sixty-three, war rages wide,
And Mantinea rolls her bloody tide. ‡

* The real cause of the condemnation of Socrates appears to have been the offence, which his intimacy with Critias and Alcibiades gave to the democratic party in Athens. Anytus and the rest of his enemies easily inflamed the superstition of the populace against this great man, by a misrepresentation of the doctrine, which he taught, of one supreme being.

† The Roman archives were destroyed when the Gauls burned the city.

‡ A battle between the Thebans and Lacedemonians, in which Epaminondas, the general of the former, lost his life in the moment of victory.

Thebes,

A. C.

Thebes, crown'd with conquest in the martial strife,
 Too dearly purchas'd with her hero's life,
 Curses the day, when Sparta was undone,
 And mourns the battle, which she bravely won.
 Epaminondas fall'n, her glories fail'd :
 Wise Philip's * well-conducted arms prevail'd ;
 335 No more, three hundred thirty-five, she stood :
 His son † immers'd her in her people's blood.
 330 Three hundred thirty, Persia's empire ends : ‡
 Great Alexander Cyrus' throne ascends.
 Short was his reign : the eighth returning spring
 Stopt in mid triumph the victorious king. §

One horn cut off, lo ! four new horns arise ; ||
 301 Three hundred one divides the mighty prize. || ||

C 3.

While

* King of Macedon.

† Alexander the Great.

‡ After the battle of Arbela, in which the army of Darius was totally routed, Alexander became master of the empire of Asia.

§ He died at Babylon in the 33d year of his age, of a fever, occasioned by his debaucheries, and left a lasting monument of the vanity of human prosperity.

|| Daniel viii, 8. See Wintle's *Daniel*, a work full of critical sagacity, sound judgment, and deep learning.

|| The battle of Ipsus in Phrygia decided the fate of Alexander's possessions.

18 [POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

A. C.

While in long war the rival kings contend,
O'er Latium Rome's victorious arms extend.

- 275 Pyrrhus, two hundred sev'nty-five, retires,
Inflam'd no more by false ambition's fires. *
At home, by land, now great, Rome turns her eyes
On foreign spoils and naval victories.
- 264 With Carthage, † rival of her pow'r, contends,
Twice twelve long years the doubtful strife depends ;
- 241 Carthage, two hundred forty-one, obey'd, ‡
As Rome advanc'd in glory, Greece decay'd.

possessions. Ptolemy obtained Egypt, Libya, Arabia, and Palestine ;
Cassander Macedonia and Greece ; Lyfimachus Thrace and Bithynia ;
and Seleucus Syria and the rest of Asia.

* Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, is said to have formed a design of carrying his conquests through every part of the earth. Invited by the Tarentines, he landed in Italy to subdue the Romans. He defeated them at first by his extraordinary skill, his strict discipline, and the use of elephants, unknown before to the Romans. Another bloody and undecided battle taught him that the Romans were invincible, and induced him to leave Italy.

† The first Punic, or Carthaginian war.

‡ The Carthaginians obtained peace, on condition that they should cede to the Romans all the islands situated between Africa and Italy, and pay 2000 talents annually during 20 years.

·Th'

A. C.

Th' Achæan patriot league, * of gen'rous fame,
Bore the last heroes of the Grecian name. †

- 218 But Carthage, yet untam'd, the war renew'd ; ‡
Hannibal, panting for revenge and blood,
Four times victorious §, half unpeopled Rome.
Three heroes sprung up, to avert her doom :
Her sword Marcellus, Fabius was her shield,
But Scipio || taught the stubborn foe to yield.
202 He cross'd, two hundred two, the Libyan main,
Avenging Cannæ's loss on Zama's plain.

- 170 Foretold of old § §, in hundred sev'nty's times,
The King, illustrious only in his crimes, || ||

Rag'd

* The Achæan league was first framed A. C. 284 by the inhabitants of Patræ, Dyme, and Pharæ. Joined by several Grecian states, they became formidable to the Ætolians and to their foreign enemies, 'till the year 146, A. C. when they were defeated in two battles by Q. Metellus, and forced to submit to the Roman power.

† Aratus, Philopœmen.

‡ The second Punic war.

§ 1. Over P. Corn. Scipio, near the river Ticinus. 2. Over Sempronius, on the banks of the Trebia. 3. Over Flaminius, near the lake Thrasymenus. 4. The celebrated battle of Cannæ, over Terentius Varro, and Æmilius Paulus, in which above 40,000 Romans were left in the field of battle.

|| P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus.

§§ Daniel viii, 10.

|| Antiochus IV, king of Syria, surnamed Epiphanes, or the illustrious.

A. C.

- Rag'd in the blood of Judah's wretched race,
And fix'd his idol in the holy place.
- 166 But soon the valiant Asmonæans * quell
His impious rage.—Then Macedonia fell, †
The mistress once of empire, now become
A province, vassal to victorious Rome.
- 146 Corinth shall hundred forty-six deplore ;
And mighty Carthage, fall'n to rise no more. ‡
- 88 Eighty-eight saw, and shudder'd at the sight,
The Roman eagles self-oppos'd in fight, §
- 82 Saw Rome by Sylla's impious arms laid low,
(Arms better us'd to quell the Pontic foe, ||)
Sunk and enslav'd ; her haughty spirit broke,
Tame to the lash, and patient of the yoke.

trious. He massacred 80,000 persons in three days at Jerusalem ; and profaned and pillaged the temple.

* Judas Maccabæus and his brothers, of the race of the Asmonæans.

† Æmilius Paulus vanquished Perseus king of Macedonia, and reduced that kingdom to a Roman province, A. C. 167.

‡ Carthage was destroyed by Pub. Æmilianus Scipio.

§ The civil war between Marius and Sylla.

|| Mithridates, king of Pontus, whose active mind and persevering spirit resisted the Roman arms during more than 24 years.

What

A. C.

- What tho' the tyrant loos'd her from her chains ; *
 The curs'd example of the deed remains.
- 49 Forty-nine sees again the dire disgrace. †
 Lo, red with slaughter of the Roman race,
- 48 A new dictator from Pharsalia's plains ! ‡
 He triumphs in his country's fall, and reigns.
- 44 Brutus in vain recalls past liberty ; §
 For, once a slave, Rome dar'd no more be free.
- 41 With him, in forty-one, fair freedom fell. ||
- 31 In thirty-one, let Actium || || blushing tell

* Sylla, having destroyed more than 100,000 Roman citizens, 90 senators and 2000 knights, and, invested with the title of perpetual dictator, reigned in Rome with an absolute authority, abdicated his command, and retired to private life, A. C. 79.

† The civil war between Cæsar and Pompey.

‡ Cæsar defeats Pompey at the battle of Pharsalia.

§ Cæsar is killed by Brutus and Cassius, the chiefs of the conspiracy.

|| Brutus and Cassius were defeated, at the battle of Philippi, by Mark Antony, and Caius Octavius, who had declared himself the adopted son of Julius Cæsar, and assumed the name of Caius Julius Cæsar Octavianus.

||| Octavianus and Antony fought, in the battle of Actium, for the empire of the world. Victory declared for the former, who received imperial authority, and the title of Augustus.

How

A. C.

How dastard Romans drew their servile swords,
For the base privilege, the choice of Lords.

Unlook'd for blessings crown the rising age :
The havoc of the dire triumvirs' rage
Augustus' mild paternal sway repays.
Rome lifts her head, the vanquish'd world obeys.

A. M. Hush'd is the din of arms, and tumults cease :

4004 Four thousand four * has giv'n THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

* From this year of the world the Christian era takes its rise. But the Saviour of mankind was born four years before, in the beginning of the year of the world 4000, or more properly in the end of the 3th year before the Christian era.

A SHORT
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE
OF
THE MOST REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,
FROM THE
Christian Æra, to the Conquest of England.

Anno Domini.

- 14 **D**EATH of Augustus, who is succeeded by Tiberius.
33 The CRUCIFIXION of the SAVIOUR of the world.
37 Caligula Emperor.
41 Claudius.
51 Caractacus, the British king, carried in chains to Rome.
54 Nero.
61 The Romans defeated in Britain by Boadicea, but
again victorious under Paulinus Suetonius.
64 First persecution of the Christians.
- 68 Galba.

A. D.

- 68 Galba.
- 69 Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian.
- 70 Jerusalem destroyed by Titus.
- 79 Titus.
- 81 Domitian, the last of the twelve Cæsars.
- 121 Adrian builds a wall from Carlisle to Newcastle.
- 209 Severus builds a wall from the Forth to the Clyde.
- 286 Carausius takes possession of Britain.
- 306 Constantine.
- 325 The first council held at Nicæa, in Bithynia.
- 328 Constantine removes the seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium, then first called Constantinople.
- 395 Arcadius and Honorius divide the Roman empire into the Eastern and the Western Empire. Arcadius reigns in Constantinople, Honorius in Rome.
- 409 Rome taken by Alaric, king of the Goths.
- 437 Theodosius publishes his code of laws.
- 446 Britain invaded by the Scots and Picts.
- 447 Attila, king of the Huns, ravages a great part of Europe.
- 449 The Saxons invited into Britain.
- 476 The end of the Western Roman empire, under Augustulus, who is expelled by Odoacer, king of the Heruli, afterwards king of Italy.
- The Eastern Empire subsisted till the year 1453, when the Emperor Constantine was killed, and Constantinople taken by the Turks, under the command of Mahomet II.
- 481 The French monarchy founded by Clovis.
- 529 Justinian publishes his code of laws.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE. 25

A D.

- 533 Justinian publishes the Digest, or Pandects, a compilation made by Tribonius of the decisions of the Roman lawyers.
- 552 The Turkish empire established.
- 568 The Lombards establish their dominion in Italy.
- 584 Saxon Heptarchy.
- 622 The flight of Mohammed, commonly called Mahomet, from Mecca to Medina. From this event, in Arabic called *Hegira*, the Mahometan æra begins, computed in lunar years.
- 636 Jerusalem taken by the Saracens, or Arabs, followers of Mahomet.
- 653 England invaded by the Danes.
- 800 Charlemagne founds the empire of Germany, called the Western empire.
- 827 Egbert, first King of England.
- 872 Alfred.
- 884 Alfred founds the University of Oxford.
- 1017 Canute the Dane, King of England.
- 1036 Harold I.
- 1039 Hardicanute.
- 1042 Edward the Confessor.
- 1065 Harold II.

D

A POETICAL

A POETICAL CHRONOLOGY
OF
ENGLISH HISTORY.

NORMANS.

William the Conqueror.

1066 **W**HEN years one thousand and threescore and six
Had pass'd, since Christ in Bethlem's * manger lay,
Then the stern Norman, red from Hastings' † field,
Bruis'd Anglia's realm beneath his iron sway.

* Bethleem. The birth place of our Saviour, six miles south of Jerusalem, in Palestine.

† Hastings. A cinque-port town in Suffex; near which place Harold, son of Godwin, was defeated, on Saturday, October 14th, 1066, by William, Duke of Normandy.

William

William Rufus.

- 1087 One thousand eighty-sev'n, see Rufus king !
 That tyrant, who, transfix'd by Tyrrel's * dart,
 No more to spoil and scourge the groaning land,
 † " Bled in the forest like a wounded hart." ‡

Henry the First.

- 1100 When centuries elev'n had roll'd away,
 Then the First Henry mounted England's throne :

* William Rufus, hunting in the New Forest in Hampshire, was wounded by an arrow, shot accidentally by Tyrrel, one of his favorites, of which he died, aged 44 years.

† Pope's *Windsor Forest*, 184.

‡ In this reign the Holy War, or the Crusades, began. In the year 1095, Peter the Hermit persuaded the Christian Princes to arm, in order to recover the Holy Land from the hands of the infidels. According to the lowest calculation, 1,300,000 men, distinguished by a cross of red cloth, which they wore on the right shoulder, marched for Palestine. Commanded by Godefroy of Bouillon, Duke of Brabant, they took Jerusalem in 1099. These wars, during which historians have particularized six different crusades, lasted almost 200 years. In 1187, Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, defeated Guy of Lusignan, the Christian King of Jerusalem, and made himself master of that city.

A. D.

Twice fourteen winters Cardiff's * gloomy tow'rs
 Heard his poor eyeless captive brother's moan.

HOUSE OF BLOIS.

Stephen.

1135 When centuries elev'n, years thirty-five,
 Were gone, the brave usurper † Stephen's hand
 The sceptre seiz'd ; to keep the glitt'ring prize,
 How oft he drench'd in blood th' afflicted land !

* Henry the First, son of William the Conqueror, succeeded his brother, against the right of Robert his elder brother, who was then engaged in the holy war. At his return Robert was defeated by Henry, and confined in the Castle of Cardiff, in Wales. Henry died at Rouen ; his body was buried in the Abbey of Reading, Berks.

† Stephen was son of Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror ; he usurped the throne against the rights of Matilda, daughter of Henry I. who was married to the Emperor Henry V. and afterwards to Geoffry Plantagenet, Count of Anjou.

The

THE PLANTAGENET RACE.

*Henry the Second.**

1154 When centuries elev'n, years fifty-four,
 Had pass'd, came Second Henry, he, whose sword
 Made the fierce Cambrian † tremble, and compell'd
 Hibernia's ‡ savage sons to call him Lord.

 With Rosamunda § oft, in fragrant bow'rs,
 Still by the muse kept verdant, and romance,
 He toy'd the summer's day. O || "only weak
 Against the charms of beauty's pow'rful glance."

* Stephen adopted Henry Duke of Normandy, son of Matilda the Empress and Geoffry Plantagenet; hence the Plantagenet race.

† The inhabitants of Wales.

‡ Ireland.

§ Rosamunda, daughter of Lord Clifford, had a great ascendant over Henry's heart. To secure her from the jealousy of the Queen, he built a labyrinth at Woodstock Park, in Oxfordshire, called *Rosamond's Bower*, where however the Queen found means to discover the favorite and take away her life.

|| Milton's *Paradise Lost*, viii, 532.

*Richard the First. **

1189 Years eighty-nine and centuries elev'n,
Lo Richard, he, who Cœur de Lion hight,
† " Against whose fury and unmatched force
The awless Lion could not wage the fight."

John. ‡

1199 Since the Redeemer of mankind was born
Now twice six centuries were almost gone,
When, to young Arthur § due, see England's crown
Usurp'd by the detested dastard John.

Perfidious, bloody wretch ! The glorious band
Of barons, arm'd in freedom's sacred cause,
Ere long shall make thee, baffled tyrant ! know,
Britons are subject only to the laws.

Th' indignant heroes, pressing to thy throne,
Shall force thee, bursting with thy smother'd rage,
To give the Charter || of fair Liberty ;
Dear be their fame to each succeeding age !

* Son of Henry II.

† Shakespear's *King John*. Act I.

‡ Brother of Richard.

§ Arthur Duke of Brittany, had been appointed heir by Richard I.
his uncle : he was son of Geoffry, eldest brother of Richard.

|| Magna Charta was signed by John and the Barons, June 19th,
1215, at Runnimeade, between Windsor and Staines.

Henry

Henry the Third.

- 1216 Twelve hundred years and sixteen, then began
Third Henry's feeble minion-guided rule :
A soft, irresolute, good natur'd prince ;
* " Ah, what is mere good nature, but a fool ! "

Edward the First.

- 1272 Not such was Edward ; red with Paynim gore,
The sun-burnt chief, from Syria's † parching strand,
Is, in twelve hundred sev'nty-two, call'd home,
To sway the sceptre of his native land.

How does a breast, black cruelty's abode,
Debase the sage's and the hero's name !
O ruthless King ! thro' each succeeding age
The vengeful ghost of Wallace ‡ haunts thy fame.

* Armstrong's *Art of Preserving Health*, 267.

† Syria's. Edward the first was in Palestine when his father died.

‡ Wallace. A Scotch soldier of fortune, who had for a long time fought for his country ; he was, by order of the King, executed as guilty of high treason.

A. D.

The muses too shall curse that jealous rage,
Which doom'd to death, in Cambria's fatal day,
'Their sweetest sons : for ever then were mute
* "High Hoel's † harp and soft Llewellyn's ‡ lay."

Edward the Second.

1307

In thirteen hundred sev'n, the fatal crown
Encircled second Edward's youthful head.
Ah me ! how mis'ry scowls behind his throne !
Ah me ! what fury mounts his bridal bed !

How shrunk with horror § Berkley's flinty tow'rs,
To hear, poor King, thy agonizing roar ;
While at thy savage consort's || dire command
The glowing steel thy frying entrails tore !

* Gray's *Ode* vi.

† Hoel, }
‡ Llewellyn, } Welch Bards.

§ Berkley, Gloucestershire. The room, in which Edward was imprisoned, is still to be seen in the tower.

|| His wife was Isabella, of France, daughter of Philip le Bel, the greatest beauty of her age. She levied an army against him, and he was abandoned by the Barons, confined in Berkeley Castle, and most inhumanly murdered.

Edward

Edward the Third.

1327 O'er thirteen hundred years and twenty-sev'n
On rapid pinions time has wing'd his way ;
Lo, the Third Edward reigns ; but ah ! too fond
Of martial glory and extended sway.

O think, to thy depopulated realms
What evils from thy false ambition flow !
But heroes, whirl'd in vict'ry's thund'ring car,
Nor hear the widow's cry, nor orphan's woe.

Thy trophies, rear'd on Crecy's * crimson field,
Calm reason with undazzled eye surveys :
“ Are these the monuments of Edward's fame,”
She cries, “ which havoc and injustice raise ?”

Soft pity weeps while history relates
How soon the envied monarch's joys are fled :
War, ever wont to wreath his brow with bays,
Now rends those honors from his hoary head.

* Crecy, in Picardy, twelve miles north of Abbeville, where Edward gained the famous victory, August 26th, 1346, over Philip king of France. Edward Prince of Wales, surnamed the Black Prince, being then but sixteen years of age, had the honor of the day. He slew the King of Bohemia, and took his helmet, on which were the Ostrich feathers, with the motto *Ich dien*, I serve ; from hence adopted for the crest of the Prince of Wales.

A. D.

Death tears his dear Philippa from his arms,
 Low in his grave the fable * warrior-lies :
 Oppress'd with care and grief himself expires,
 No friend † to soothe his woes, or close his eyes,

Richard the Second. ‡

1377 In thirteen hundred sev'nty sev'n, the throne
 Receives the fable chief's degen'rate boy.
 His people's rights, which he had sworn to guard,
 The perjur'd traitor labor'd to destroy.

Tho' venal judges § strive to render law
 The pliant slave of a despotic Lord ;

* The Prince of Wales died in 1376, in the 46th year of his age, leaving behind him a character without a single blemish ; and a degree of sorrow, which time could scarcely alleviate. He had won the battle of Poitiers, September 19, 1356, where King John of France had been taken prisoner.

† Edward the Third died about a year after the Prince, at Shene, in Surrey, deserted by his courtiers, even by those, who had grown rich by his bounty. He expired in the 65th year of his age, and the 51st of his reign.

‡ Richard the Second, son of the Black Prince.

§ At the opening of the Parliament, which met in September, 1397, the Lord Chancellor made a speech, in which he told the members, that kings were masters of the law. The judges were prevailed upon to declare, that the king was above the laws.

Tho'

A. D.

Tho' venal armies * page the tyrant's heels,
And round his pomp terrific flames the sword :

What now avails the feast, that wont to roar
With laughter ? what the blaze of rich attire ?
The jocund dance, and music's melting voice ?
And mirth, that saw the lamps of night expire ?

Dragg'd from his throne, in Pomfret's † darksome
tow'rs

Immur'd, he groan'd his heavy hours away :
'Till, free'd from all his woes, at Exton's ‡ feet,
A breathless corpse, the murder'd monarch lay.

* He modelled his guards, so that he thought them fit for every purpose of blood and barbarity.

† Richard, returning from Ireland, was seized and imprisoned in the Castle of Flint, near Chester, afterwards carried to London, tried and deposed by an act of Parliament passed September 30th, 1399. He was afterwards imprisoned in Pomfret Castle, in Yorkshire.

‡ Henry IV. sent eight men to the Castle, headed by Sir Pierce Exton, to murder the King, who was resolved to sell his life as dear as possible : having forced a battle-axe from one of those villains, he killed four of them ; at last Exton, who was on a chair, struck the King on the head with a club, and killed him instantly.

HOUSE

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

*Henry the Fourth. **

- 1399 In thirteen hundred ninety-nine, the crown,
 From Richard wrested, the Fourth Harry wore !
 Soon civil discord calls the dogs of war
 To riot † lawless on Britannia's shore.

Henry the Fifth.

- 1413 In fourteen hundred thirteen, graceful, young,
 Brave, learn'd and polish'd, the Fifth Harry reigns :
 But ah ! what grim attendants, sword and fire,
 Ere long to rage on weeping Gallia's ‡ plains !

* Henry of *Lancaster*, surnamed of Bolingbroke, claimed the crown by lineal descent, being the son of John of Ghent, who was the fourth son of King Edward III. This claim was made in a full assembly of the House of Lords. Hence the House of Lancaster.

† His reign was a continual series of internal commotions, which deluged England with blood. And though he always triumphed over his enemies, he put so many persons of quality to death, for having fomented these insurrections, that he was termed the Cruel.

‡ Gallia's Plains. France was anciently called Gallia.

See

A. D.

See war, tremendous fiend, gives to his hand
 The weapon, forg'd by fate to deal the blow,
 That soon on Agincourt's * enfanguin'd field
 " † Shall lay Alençon's ‡ haughty helmet low."

Not such the train, that erst with Harry trod
 The flow'ry verge of Isis' classic tide § ;
 When, for the student's gown, he deign'd awhile
 To throw the purple robes of state aside.

Attendant ever on his studious walks
 Was contemplation, tranquil matron, there.
 The peaceful muses with their silver lyres,
 And science, with high converse, charm'd his ear.

* Agincourt, alias Azincourt, a village in the province of Artois, where Henry defeated a French army near ten times as numerous as his own, October 25th, 1415.

† Warton's *Poem on the King's Marriage*.

‡ In the heat of the action Henry was vigorously attacked by the Duke of Alençon, one of the French generals, who, with his axe, struck such a blow on his head, that it carried off a part of the King's helmet. The Duke was killed in the battle.

§ Henry was member of Queen's College, Oxford.

E

Henry

Henry the Sixth.

1422 In fourteen hundred twenty-two, behold
 Britannia's crown becomes an infant's * toy.
 'Tis the Sixth Harry: how the man shall rue
 The fatal splendors, that delight the boy !

Thou know'st not, gentle babe, that from thy birth,
 Mishap and sorrow mark'd thee for their own :
 Doom'd, at capricious Warwick's † lordly will,
 To pine in dungeons, or to fill a throne.

How long shall civil discord, loos'd ‡ from hell,
 Lead fire and slaughter o'er the wide domain ;
 Bid kindred hosts deal mutual deaths, and lie
 “ § Mix'd in incestuous murders o'er the plain !” ||

* Henry VI. was not quite a year old when he came to the throne.

† Warwick was the most celebrated general of his age. Henry and Edward alternately obtained the victory, as Warwick fought for either. Hence he was called the King-maker.

‡ The Duke of York began to think of asserting his right to the crown of England ; he was descended by the mother's side from Lionel, one of the sons of Edward III. while the reigning King was descended from John of Gaunt, a son of the same Edward, but younger than Lionel. The ensign of the Duke was a *white*, that of Henry, a *red rose*. This gave the name to the two houses.

§ Armstrong's *Art of Preserving Health*, B. 3.

|| Henry VI. died suddenly, in the year 1471, and in the 50th year of his age; it is supposed, by the hands of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, brother of Edward the Fourth.

HOUSE

HOUSE OF YORK.

Edward the Fourth.

1461 In fourteen hundred sixty-one, the throne
Fourth Edward mounts, * and feasts his brutal eye
On scaffolds † crimson with Lancastrian gore,
And makes the regal dome “ ‡ a sensual sty.”

* Edward was the son of the Duke of York, who in the preceding reign, asserted his right to the crown, and who had been killed in the battle of Wakefield, Dec. 1460.

† Edward took the most cruel measures to establish his power; above 1400 men of rank adhering to King Henry's interest were put to death. He caused also the Duke of Clarence, his brother, to be drowned in a butt of Malmsey, because he had spoken with too much freedom against the King.

1471, Thomas Caxton, a citizen of London, set up the first printing-press in Westminster Abbey. The first invention of printing took place, in 1440, at Strasburg and Mentz. Books were first printed in 1450.

‡ Milton's *Comus*.

Edward the Fifth.

- 1483 Could not Fifth Edward's * childhood innocence
His life, alas ! from bloody Richard save ?
The year, that saw him mount Britannia's throne,
Saw murder hide him in th' untimely grave.

Richard the Third.

- 1483 In fourteen hundred eighty-three, what fiend,
Misshapen, hideous, meets the startled eye ?
'Tis the Third Richard, drunk with human gore ;
† Dogs bay the monster as he passes by.

* Edward the Fifth, eldest son of Edward the Fourth, was then twelve years of age, when he and his younger brother were, by order of their uncle, stifled with pillows. They had been previously conveyed to the Tower.

† Dogs bark at me as I halt by them.

Shakespeare's *Rich.* III.

HOUSE

HOUSE OF TUDOR.

*Henry the Seventh.**

1485 In fourteen hundred eighty-five, the crown,
 He won on Bosworth's † bloody plain, behold
 On the Sev'nth Henry's head, demure, ‡ severe,
 " § Proud, dark, suspicious, brooding o'er his gold."

* Henry the Seventh, of the House of Lancaster, was descended by the female line from John of Gaunt : he married the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth, and thus united the interest of the houses of Lancaster and York.

† Bosworth, in Leicestershire, where Richard the Third was killed.

‡ The character of Henry the Seventh seems to be too severely drawn : during his reign he had all along two points in view, the one to set bounds to the ambition of the nobility and clergy, and the other to humanize and protect the people ; with such political views, and at such an age, he could not be a bad King, whatever he was as a man.

In 1492, Columbus discovered America.

§ Thomson's *Liberty*, B. 4.

Henry the Eighth.

1509 Fierce with his pow'r, and frolic * of his prime,
Dreadful and gay, in fifteen hundred nine,
The youthful lion, the Eighth Harry comes
And boasts his high descent from either line. †

That gothic church, by superstition rear'd,
In whose dark cells, in hideous durance bound,
Lay groaning reason, dauntless he assail'd,
And tore ‡ the massy fabric to the ground.

Rome heard the fall astounded : Britons now
Deride her thunders : may the latest age
Hear Britons glory in the great event,
And hail " § the brutal tyrant's useful rage !"

* Frolic of his full grown age.

Milton's *Comus*.

† By the father's side from the House of Lancaster, and by the mother's side from the House of York.

‡ In 1534 Henry the Eighth procured an act to be passed for abolishing the Papal authority, and introducing the Reformation in England : he forbid all intercourse between his subjects and the court of Rome, and was Chief of the national church.

Martin Luther had begun, in 1517, to inveigh against the indulgences granted by Pope Leo X. Henry, in 1521, defended the tenets of the established church, and received from the Pope the title of Defender of the Faith.

§ Thomson's *Summer*.

Edward

*Edward the Sixth.**

1547 Array'd in ev'ry blushing charm of youth,
Who comes in fifteen hundred forty-sev'n ?
'Tis the Sixth Edward ; virtuous, learned, mild :
† Ah, only shewn, then ‡ snatch'd away to heav'n !

Mary. §

1553 “ || Th' inaudible and noiseless foot of time”
O'er fifteen centuries his course has run,
And summers fifty-three ; fell Mary then
Her direful reign, sad fury ! has begun.
The fury calls, and from his central gloom
The cruel dæmon, persecution, || || hies.
Quick o'er her realms his iron whips resound,
His fetters rattle, and his flames arise.

* Edward the Sixth, son of Henry by Jane Seymour, was proclaimed King at the age of nine years.

† Henry reigned but six years and a half, and died at Greenwich.

‡ *Ostendit terris hunc tantum fata.*—Virg. *Æneid.* vi.

§ Mary, daughter of Henry the Eighth, by Catherine of Spain.

|| Shakespeare.

|| || Mary persecuted the protestants very severely, during which time 5 bishops, 21 clergymen, 129 laymen, 55 women, and 4 children, were burnt alive.

O God !

44 POETICAL CHRONOLOGY
A. D.

O God ! o'er all the wide extended earth
O make such bigot rage for ever cease !
Let truth, exulting, call the Christian world
The gentle household of the Prince of Peace.

*Elizabeth. **

1558 Who comes in fifteen hundred fifty-eight,
Begirt with sages and with heroes round ?
'Tis great Eliza. Raptur'd fame her praise
Shall to the ears of dying time resound.

From the dread lustre of her piercing eye,
See fraudulent pop'ry shrinks dismay'd away ;
While arts and learning, and celestial truth,
Burst on the nation in a flood of day.

On proud Iberia's fleet † her vengeful arm
Thunder and terror and destruction hurl'd,
And dauntless Drake, ‡ immortal hero, bore
Her awful name around the trembling world.

* Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry the Eighth, by Anne Boleyn.

† Iberia's fleet. The Invincible Armada of the Spaniards destroyed,
1588.

‡ Sir Francis Drake was one of the most distinguished naval heroes,
who flourished in the reign of Elizabeth. He made a voyage round the
globe in two years and ten months.

RACE OF STUART.

*James the First.**

1603 Not such her heir, in sixteen hundred three,
Comes Scottish James, extinct the Tudor line.
Hark, how vile flatt'ry sooths his pedant ear
With "sapient King, and King by right divine."

In action feeble, in the wordy † war
Content is he his prowess to display;
"† Content to teach his subject herd, how great,
How sacred he, how despicable they."

* James the First was the son of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots and Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. Hence the race of Stuart. Queen Mary was daughter of James the Fourth, and of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry the Seventh, and it is by virtue of this right that James was recognized King of England. *if*

† Rex fuit Elizabeth, nunc est Regina Jacobus.

The gunpowder plot discovered November 5, 1605.

‡ Thomson's *Liberty*, B. 4.

Were

A. D.

Were ev'ry other act forgot, that gives
 To detestation and contempt thy name ;
 Yet know, that Raleigh's * murder, wretched King
 Alone would brand thee with eternal shame.

Charles the First.

- 1625 In sixteen hundred twenty-five, see Charles
 With step secure ascends Britannia's throne :
 Taught, unsuspecting, from his infancy
 " † Th' erroneous faith of many made for one."
 School'd in misfortune, Charles is just and good ;
 The people hail their liberty restor'd.
 But ah ! fanatic treason lifts her arm,
 And in the Monarch's blood ‡ she bathes the sword.
- 1653 Five years the fires of civil war had blaz'd :
 Cromwell, § in sixteen hundred fifty-three,

* Sir Walter Raleigh, one of the greatest ornaments of his country, was accused of being concerned in a conspiracy, and after having been confined twelve years in the Tower, where he wrote several valuable performances, which are still in the highest esteem, was beheaded October 29, 1618.

† Pope.

‡ Charles the first was beheaded on Tuesday, January the 30th, 1649.

§ Oliver Cromwell was proclaimed Protector of the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, the 16th of December, 1653.

Usurping

A D.

Usurping tyrant ! bares his bloody arm ;
The shame of pow'r, the scourge of liberty.

But conscience sleeps not : round the murd'rer's bed
Remorse's brood of hissing adders creep ;
Despair around his head still clanks her chain,
And fear forbids the healing balm of sleep.

1658 Five years he reign'd : his soul in tempests * fled.
Richard awhile his father's steps pursu'd ;
But soon resign'd the pow'r he could not wield,
And pass'd his life in rural solitude.

Charles the Second.

1660 But taught at length that freedom safest blooms
Beneath the shelter of the regal pow'r,
In sixteen hundred sixty, Monck's † brave train
Their lawful King, the Second Charles, restore.

Free'd from the tumults of a civil war,
Charles lost in pleasure all his youth's fair fame ;
Foe to religion, deaf to honor's voice,
Of royalty at once the pride and shame.

* His death was rendered remarkable by one of the most violent tempests, that had blown in the memory of man.

Oliver Cromwell died September the 3d, 1658, the anniversary of the victories he had obtained at Dunbar and Worcester. He was then 59 years old, and had usurped the government nine years.

† General Monck, Duke of Albemarle, memorable for having restored Charles the Second to the crown, May the 29th, 1660.

James

James the Second.

1685 His brother York, the Second James, ascends,
 In sixteen hundred eighty-five, the throne.
 Pop'ry show'rs blessings on her bigot son,
 And calls the realms of liberty her own.

 With persecution arm'd, the sacred code
 Of law he dashes thoughtless to the ground.
 Free'd from its high controul, see Jefferies * rage
 Fierce o'er the land, and spread his murders round.

William the Third. †

1688 In sixteen hundred eighty-eight, behold
 Th' invited fleet in triumph's gallant pride,
 Fraught with new stores of wealth and freedom, bears
 William of Orange o'er the briny tide.

* Jefferies was Lord Chief Justice, and had been sent into the west of England to try the delinquents, which he did with the most cruel severity.

† November the 5th, 1688. The King, James the Second, set sail for France, and the Parliament voted that he had abdicated the government. They chose the Prince and Princess of Orange King and Queen of England, who were proclaimed February the 16th, 1689.

Confi-

Constitution.

From hence the King, the Commons, and the Lords,
 To wield an equal share of pow'r agree.
 From these three states the laws derive their force ;
 And the King executes the high decree.

Anne.

1702 Two years o'er sev'nteen centuries had roll'd,
 When Anne arose to bless this favor'd land.
 Hers was the mildness, that could faction soothe ;
 Hers was each virtue, that endears command.

Scotland with England in fair Union join'd, *
 And Britain's fame the wond'ring nations taught,
 From Blenheim's † plains to Calpe's ‡ rocky height,
 " How Anne commanded, and how Marlborough
 fought." §

* The union of Scotland was finally settled July the 22d, 1707.

† The battle of Blenheim, also called the battle of Hochstadt, a small town in Bavaria, where the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene obtained a complete victory over the French and Bavarians, August the 2d, 1704.

‡ Calpe's. Gibraltar taken in three days by Admiral Rook, July 24th, 1704.

§ Prior.

THE RACE OF BRUNSWICK.

George the First.

- 1714 In sev'nteen hundred fourteen, Brunswick's line
 Bade ev'ry fear and ev'ry tumult cease :
 Justice and wisdom George the First combin'd ;
 He crush'd rebellion, and he liv'd in peace.

George the Second.

- 727 The sev'nteen hundredth year and twenty-sev'nth
 Disclos'd the rise of George the Second's fame. *
 Anson † and Vernon ‡ bow'd the Spaniards low,
 Both oceans trembled at the British name.
 But still to darken the dread gloom of war,
 Misguided Stuart § drew rebellion's sword :

* War with Spain, 1739 ; with France, 1742.

† Commodore Anson plundered Payta, on the coast of Peru, 1742 ; he took a Spanish galleon, containing upwards of 1,500,000l. and returned to England in 1744.

‡ Admiral Vernon took Porto Bello, in South America, from the Spaniards, 1740.

§ Charles Stuart, called the Pretender, grandson of James II.

A. D.

E'en Derby saw his vaunting banners wave,
And Scottish chieftains hail'd him as their Lord..

Ill-fated youth ! Culloden's * bloody field
Sunk the vain fabric of ambition low.
Prest with fatigue and hunger, long he roam'd,
Mid scenes of danger, and mid fights of woe.

Peace shed her soft, but transitory balm. †
France soon provok'd our heroes to the field. ‡
Hawke and Boscawen § vict'ry's flag unfurl'd,
And Gallia saw her baffled navies yield.

Britain's victorious streamers Minden || saw ;
In India Clive new stores of wealth supplied ;
Wolfe pour'd his squadrons o'er Canadian * * wilds :
The hero fought, he conquer'd, and he died..

* Culloden in the north of Scotland, three miles east of Inverness, where the pretender was entirely defeated, April 16th, 1746, and escaped to France.

† The treaty of Aix La Chapelle, October 7, 1748.

‡ War with France, 1756.

§ November the 20th, 1759, Admiral Hawke gained a complete victory over an equal number of French ships, on the coast of Brittany, in Quiberon bay, in the midst of a tempest, during the darkness of the night, and what seamen fear still more, upon a rocky shore.

|| Minden, a large town in Germany, in the circle of Westphalia, where the English gained a complete victory over the French, August the 1st, 1759.

* * Canadian wilds. Quebec, a seaport, and the chief town of Canada, in North America, taken September 13, 1759, after a battle, in which General Wolfe was slain.

George

George the Third.

1760 In sev'nteen hundred sixty, George the Third,
 In Britain born, his people's dear delight,
 Receiv'd the sceptre twin'd with laurel round,
 And with fresh force renew'd the thicken'd fight.

To humbled Gallia Spain allied her pow'r; *
 Havannah † fell, Manilla ‡ grac'd his arms:
 Yet, midst his conquests, he rejoic'd to spare,
 And free'd § th' admiring world from war's alarms.

* War with Spain, 1762.

† Havannah, a large seaport town in the island of Cuba, in North America, and the rendezvous of the Spanish fleets. It was taken by the English August the 12th, 1762, on the same day that the Prince of Wales was born.

‡ Manilla, the chief town of the island of Luzon in India, belonging to the Spaniards, was taken by the English October the 6th, 1762.

§ Peace made with France and Spain, February the 10th, 1763.

FINIS.